

PRESS RELEASE

Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest 1200 Franklin Way Sparks, NV 89431

Contact: Marnie Bonesteel. 775-352-1240

For Immediate Release on December 12, 2014 - Stop Date is January 13, 2015

Forest Service Requests Comments on Bordertown to California Transmission Line Draft Environmental Impact Statement

SPARKS, Nevada... The Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest, Carson Ranger District, recently completed a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Bordertown to California 120kV Transmission Line Project. The Forest Service is serving as the lead agency along with the following Cooperating Agencies including the City of Reno, Washoe County, Truckee Meadows Regional Planning Agency, Sierra County, Nevada Department of Wildlife and the Bureau of Land Management.

The purpose of this project is to address the need for reliable electricity by providing a back-up transmission line to west Reno/Verdi area in case of a power failure.

Four alternative transmission line routes were analyzed which include Mitchell, Peavine, Poeville, and Peavine/Poeville. The Forest Service has identified the Poeville Alternative as the Agency Preferred Alternative. This alternative is consistent with the Humboldt-Toiyabe Forest Plan, "to manage all utility, road and transmission corridors and when utility right of way applications are received, the first priority will be to utilize existing corridors."

The Poeville Alternative would use existing utility corridors more than any of the other action alternatives. This alternative would maximize the use of federally designated portions of Section 368 Energy Corridor (P.L. 109-58) and regionally designated utility corridors.

The Draft EIS will be available for a 45-day public comment period following the publication of the Notice of Availability in the Federal Register. The publication date in the Federal Register is the exclusive means for calculating the comment period for this DEIS.

Those wishing to comment should not rely upon dates or timeframe information provided by any other source. After the comment period, the Forest will consider the comments submitted, update the analysis, and issue a Final EIS and Draft Record of Decision opening an Objection Period. The project is subject to the objection procedures of 36 CFR218 Subpart B.

A public open house for this project will be held on January 13, 2015 from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. at the Northwest Reno Library, 2325 Robb Drive, Reno NV 89523. We invite you to attend and learn more about this project. If you have any questions or want to request a hardcopy of the DEIS, please contact Marnie Bonesteel, Project Coordinator, (775) 352-1240.

A copy of this DEIS and other related documents are available at http://www.fs.usda.gov/goto/htmf/bordertownline. The document is also available on CD-ROM or hardcopy upon request.

For more information or to email comments, go to http://www.fs.usda.gov/goto/bordertownline and click under "Get Connected" tab.

Send written comments to 1200 Franklin Way, Sparks NV 89431 or fax comments to (775) 355-5399.

Hand delivered comments can be dropped off at 1200 Franklin Way, Sparks Nevada 89431, 8am to 4:30pm, Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

If you have general questions about the project or want to request a hardcopy of the EIS, contact Marnie Bonesteel, project coordinator at (775) 352-1240.

-END-